(b) if so, the number of complaints received from Saudi Arabia, UAE, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to redress their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the years 1992 and 1993 (upto 30.6.93), 56 complaints from Saudi Arabia, 3 from U.A.E. and 2 from Kuwait were received. No complaint was received from Oman and Bahrain.

(c) The provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983 and the Rules framed thereunder are intended to safegaurd the interests of workers seeking employment abroad. As and when complaints are received against registered Recruiting Agents, these are enquired into with the help of police and the concerned Indian Missions abroad depending upon the nature of complaints. Offences under the Act have been made Cognizable and strict punishment of imprisonment and fine have been prescribed. Necessary action is also taken by the Indian Missions abroad for redressal of the grievances of the Indian workers.

Accordingly, appropriate action have been taken on the above complaints.

Opposition to new pension scheme

64. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a strong opposition from the employees against the 'New Pension-cum-Family Pension Scheme' announced by Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have consulted different trade unions on the implementation of the new scheme;

(c) what are the suggestions of the employees on the new scheme; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government on the suggestions of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir. Most of the trade unions have generally welcomed the proposal pension scheme. However, some individuals/trade unions have made certain critical observations on the proposed scheme.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The major suggestion relates to restoration of the Government's contribution, provision of D.A. etc. These points have been noted for consideration while finalising the proposed Pension Scheme.

Action plan for eradication of child labour

65. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is financial aid provided by ILO to eradicate child labour in the country;

(b) which States have large incidence of child labour and which of these States have been identified for removal of child labour in the first phase;

(c) what is the strategy or plan of action formulated by the Government to achieve the objective stating the anticipated period of its implementation; and

(d) if answer to (c) be in the negative what are the reasons for delay in the formulation of plan of action for eradication of child labour in the country padticularly when funds are available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) ILO has at present two programmes titled 'International Programme on elimination of Child Labour' (IPEC) and 'Child Labour Action & Support Programme' (CLASP) under